

SECRET

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Types of Aerial Photographic Coverage Required  
for Intelligence Purposes

1. Reconnaissance photography has been defined as any type of photography that reveals intelligence either positive or negative regarding an enemy or potential enemy.

2. Reconnaissance mapping and charting photography normally is accomplished to produce rough navigation charts of very large areas in a short period of time, where the precise requirements of a map cannot be met. During and since World War II an array of 3, 6" Metrogon cameras giving horizon to horizon coverage has been most often employed. The "B" camera when used in its 7 position mode is a more sophisticated type of charting camera which due to its long focal length provides also very good tactical and strategic photography.

3. A photo map may be a single photo composite or mosaic showing coordinates and marginal information: normally reproduced in quantity.


4. An uncontrolled mosaic is composed of uncorrected prints the detail of which has been matched without ground control.

5. A controlled mosaic is laid to ground control distances and points. The prints are ratioed or rectified in accordance with the ground control requirements.

6. A chart is a map of varying degrees of accuracy and may be assembled from data on aerial photographs.

7. Panoramic photography unless rectified to provide equivalent scale across the format cannot normally be used to produce a mosaic.

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Sensor Systems Division  
(Special Activities)

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